



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 11 1963

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

Lawrence Houston  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Houston:

Reference is made to this Division's letter to you of February 24, 1961, and your reply thereto of March 29, 1961, concerning a proposal to add a new Section 878 to Title 18, United States Code, to make it a criminal offense for any person to threaten to disclose classified information.

We have revised the proposal somewhat so as not to limit its applicability to classified information, in an effort to make the thrust of the offense the extortion, thereby obviating, it is hoped, any problem of having to demonstrate in a particular case that the information involved was in fact defense or intelligence information.

The Deputy Attorney General has now requested that we again ascertain from the CIA and from the FBI, whether they will support the legislation as now proposed. The new proposed form of the statute is set forth in the attached copy of a memorandum prepared in this Division.


It is requested that you advise us as to whether you would continue to support any efforts which may be made by this Department to secure passage of this legislation and that you also furnish any additional information you may have which would indicate the need for such a proposal.

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In the event proposed legislation of this nature is introduced, it is likely that your agency would be called upon to furnish to a Congressional Committee information relating to the need for such a proposal. Any comment you may have with respect to this latter probability would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. WALTER YEAGLEY  
Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

  
By: KEVIN T. MARONEY  
Chief, Appeals & Research Section

Enclosure

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